

honor, courage, and sacrifice of Boatswain's Mate Second Class George Hekowczyk. I wish him the happiest of birthdays and thank him for his dedication and Service to this Nation.

HONORING JESSICA SHAPIRO FOR
EXEMPLARY WORK FOR THE
HOUSE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLA-
TIVE COUNSEL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the Honorable FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, to include in the RECORD a letter to recognize and express our sincere appreciation for Ms. Jessica Shapiro's nearly two decades of exemplary work for the House Office of the Legislative Counsel.

FEBRUARY 7, 2023.

JESSICA SHAPIRO,
Senior Counsel, House Office of the Legislative
Counsel, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. SHAPIRO: Over the last two decades, you have played a vital role drafting the words of thousands of health policies—many of which have become transformative laws—and you have done so with integrity, professionalism, and meticulousness.

When you began your career in the U.S. House of Representatives, America still had gaping holes in its health insurance system. The words you drafted as part of the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10), and No Surprises Act (P.L. 116-260)—just to name a few—have become the cornerstone for a more equitable health system that has guaranteed access to health services and provided a more robust safety net for millions of Americans. Most recently, the work you did on Medicare drug pricing reform, originally part of the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, formed a key component or President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169). Your equanimity, vast knowledge of the intricacies of the Social Security Act (P.L. 74-271), and methodical approach to drafting policy were vital to the success of that process, which required hundreds of hours of drafting, problem-solving, and redrafting. Nearly 70 million Americans will benefit from your unwavering commitment to this work.

Few realize the number of hours of refinement, modification, and revision that go into making a law operational, particularly in the health space. And for every high-profile public law, there are also countless bills and amendments that do not succeed. All of this work requires sacrifices—time away from family and friends as a result of weekend and after-hour intrusions—that often go unacknowledged.

The U.S. health system is in a better place today because of the sacrifices you made during your time at the House Office of the Legislative Counsel, and we thank you and your family for your dedication. Your commitment to public service will live on for decades in the words you have written in the U.S. Code.

Sincerely,

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES "CHUCK" POLAND, JR.

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr., who sadly passed away on January 29, 2013, at the age of 66 while performing a heroic act while driving his school bus in Midland City, Alabama.

On January 29, 2013, Charles selflessly defended the lives of the young children on board of his Dale County school bus. What began as a normal winter day in southeastern Alabama for Charles' afternoon route, quickly turned into a senseless attack resulting in the hostage situation and release of a then 5-year-old boy.

Mr. Poland was born July 16, 1946, in Payette, Idaho. As a resident of Newton, Alabama, his courage touched and influenced the lives of many, not only in Alabama's Second Congressional District, but across our great Nation. He was a selfless man whose life exemplified the Lord he served and made the ultimate sacrifice by saving the lives of the children he loved. On the 10th anniversary of his passing, may his sacrifice be remembered as a brave hero who did not flinch in the face of adversity.

In 2013, the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act was passed and signed into law. This important law gives appropriate consequences to unauthorized persons who trespass on an Alabama school bus and commit actions that compromise the safety of our Alabama students. Not only is his devotion and strength to our Nation remembered with his incredible service. He is known by protecting the lives of all Alabama students.

Charles dedicated his life to bringing joy to his friends, family, and everybody else around him. He was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary Janice Poland, 2 children, Lydia and Aaron, and extended members of family.

As we remember Charles, may we remember his kindness and selflessness. As he laid down his life to protect the children, may we recognize his sacrifice on the 10th anniversary and every moment forward.

Charles Poland was a joyous and loved resident of Alabama's Second Congressional District that has left lifelong impressions on many. He is deeply missed, but faithfully remembered by many friends, family members, and all those he made smile.

COMMEMORATING CONGENITAL
HEART DISEASE AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Hayden West, and his family. Hayden was prenatally diagnosed with congenital heart disease, which is the most prevalent birth defect in the United States, affecting one in every 100 births. In

honor of Hayden and the more than 40,000 babies born each year with congenital heart disease, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize February 7 through 14 as Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

Congenital heart disease, sometimes called congenital heart defects, broadly refers to problems with the heart's structure that are present from birth. Current estimates suggest that more than 1 million children and 1.4 million adults in the United States are living with congenital heart disease. There is no known cure for congenital heart disease, as it is a lifelong disease that requires ongoing specialized care, and can impact individuals in a variety of ways, including the development of additional health conditions, such as arrhythmia, pulmonary hypertension, and heart failure. Thanks to the advancement of science and medicine, 85 percent of individuals born with congenital heart disease now live past the age of 18.

It is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and all those in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart disease in the prenatal term. Continued medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart disease. Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week provides the opportunity for patients and families affected by congenital heart disease to share their experiences and knowledge so that the general public may be aware of how this defect affects our lives.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank the West family for bringing awareness to this condition and hope my fellow Americans will join me in recognizing Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF MATIN GORJI

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Iranian government to immediately release Matin Gorji. On January 8, 2023, Iranian authorities searched Mr. Gorji's home and arrested him simply because he is a member of the Baha'i faith. According to Mr. Gorji's family, the authorities who searched his home physically abused him and, upon arrest, refused to allow him to take his medication for his liver condition with him. His mother was told he faces a sentence of at least 2 years, yet the specific nature of his charges is unknown.

Sadly, Mr. Gorji is just one of many members of the Baha'i community subjected to harsh persecution in Iran. Since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, thousands more have been arrested and interrogated, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs. In its most recent report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported that Iran continues to persecute people of the Baha'i faith, closing their businesses, denying them access to an education, demolishing their